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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION FROM

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

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1951

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SOURCE

Argentinisches Tageblatt

PEOPLE'S POLICE TO DRAFT 100,000; SOVIET ARMY DESERTERS EXECUTED

TRAIN PARACEUTISTS, JET PILOTS -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt, 6 May 51

The West Berlin daily Der Tagesspiegel reports that 100,000 men in the German Democratic Republic are to be drafted by the People's Police for military service. In addition, 75,000 men are to be assigned to the regular police, which now numbers 100,000

According to Der Tagesspiegel, the draftees will be trained as reservists and returned to civilian life. The People's Police is reported to control an arms reserve of 50,000 guns and 20,000 machine guns, which will be used by the recruits. This mobilization is the first step in the realization of Soviet plans for the formation of East German combat forces and includes the calling up of air and naval groups of the People's Police. These groups are being expanded rapidly. In Wittstock, 1,800 men are being trained as parachutists. In Grossenheim, the Russians are training 1,500 men as jet pilots.

EXECUTE 40 DESERTERS IN EAST GERMANY -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt, 6 May 51

The West Berlin newspaper Der Abend reports that 40 deserters from the Soviet Army have been executed by the Soviet Secret Police in East Germany. These men were part of a group of 73 who fled the garrison in Bernburg. They had been disciplined for breaches of regulations.

The paper further reports that all highways leading out of Bernburg have been closed to traffic and that Soviet troops are still trying to track down the missing 33 deserters.

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PURGE PEOPLE'S POLICE -- Buenos Aires, Argentinisches Tageblatt, 17 Apr 51

According to West Berlin newspaper reports, all Vopos (members of the People's Police) who were in French prisoher-of-war camps are to be discharged. Last week all Vopos who had been in British or North American prisoner-of-war camps were being dismissed, including some close followers of the party line. The latter were discharged formally so that they might obtain employment in strategic West German enterprises, where they are to be planted as spies.

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